COATS REPORT

September 1, 2002 to August 31, 2003
and
September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2004

Introduction

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards (COATS) was established in 1985 by Ministerial Order and its mandate continues to be reaffirmed. COATS provides advice and recommendations to the Minister of Learning on all matters related to teachers and teaching, including: teacher certification, teacher education, practice review, teaching excellence and other matters of interest to the Minister. COATS also plays a role in addressing Practice Review of Teachers Regulation complaints and in the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program.

As COATS members represent various provincial education organizations, COATS conducts its activities in ways that are designed to foster, encourage and enhance partnerships within the education community. Through its work, COATS brings the education community together to work toward providing the best possible education for Alberta students.

Membership of Council

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards is comprised of representatives from provincial education organizations, a member of the public and practicing teachers. The Chair of COATS is appointed from the membership by the Minister of Learning. The Registrar for Alberta Learning serves the Council in an ex officio, non-voting capacity and as Executive Secretary.

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2002-2003 and 2003-2004

Teacher Representatives

Dr. Dale Bischoff
T.A. Norris Junior High
Peace River School Division

Mr. David Johansson
Memorial Composite High
Parkland School Division

Mr. Larry Albrecht
Brooks Composite High
Grasslands Regional Division

Dr. Claude Oppenheim
The Calgary Jewish Academy — Association of Independent Schools and Colleges of Alberta

Dr. Joanne Neal
Edmonton Public Schools

Dr. Ken Badley
Elk Island School Division
(APPOINTED 2003)

Partner Representatives

Ms. Donna Smith
Alberta Learning

Ms. Carol McLean
Alberta Learning
(APPOINTED 2003)

Mr. Ron Zapisocki
Alberta School Boards Association

Ms. Debbie Engel
Alberta School Boards Association
(APPOINTED 2003)

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 continued

Partner Representatives...continued

Dr. Klaus Puhlmann
(Chair)
College of Alberta
School Superintendents

Mr. Jim Gibbons
(Chair)
College of Alberta
School Superintendents
(APPOINTED 2003)

Dr. Annette LaGrange
University of Calgary
Faculty of Education

Ms. Debbie Cavaliere
Member of the Public

Ms. Jody Hunt
Member of the Public
(APPOINTED 2003)

Mr. Luigi Gatti
The Alberta Teachers'
Association

Ms. Fran Galbraith
The Alberta Teachers'
Association
(APPOINTED 2003)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND SUPPORT STAFF
2002-2003 and 2003-2004

Mr. Fred Burghardt
REGISTRAR,
Teacher Development and Certification

Dr. Mark Swanson
REGISTRAR,
Teacher Development and Certification
(APPOINTED 2003)

Ms. Pamela Wolfe
Teacher Development and Certification

Ms. Karen Belanger
Teacher Development and Certification

LEGAL COUNSEL
2002-2003 and 2003-2004

Mr. Jerry McKenna
Alberta Justice

Education is not preparation for life, education is life itself.

John Dewey

Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Excellence in Teaching Awards Program recognizes teachers for their creativity, innovation and effectiveness. Yearly, thousands of Albertans join to celebrate teaching excellence in award ceremonies across the province.

The 2002-2003 Program was supported by Alberta Learning as well as the following business and education partners: The Document Company, XEROX; SMARTer Kids Foundation; the Alberta School Boards Association; and The Edmonton Journal. The Alberta Chambers of Commerce also assisted sponsoring the Program.

The 2003 Awards Ceremony was held in Edmonton on May 10, 2003. The Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Learning, as well as sponsor representatives presented provincial Award Recipients with framed certificates and souvenir pins. Sponsor representatives presented Recipients with a cash award for their schools. The 2nd Annual SMARTer Kids Foundation Innovative Use of Technology Award, recognizing teachers' exemplary use of electronic technology in meeting the Excellence in Teaching Awards selection criteria, was presented and the Recipient's school was awarded an electronic equipment donation valued at $12,000 (Canadian funds).

The 2004 Awards Ceremony was held in Calgary on May 1, 2004 and the Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Learning as well as sponsor representatives presented provincial Award Recipients with framed certificates and souvenir pins. The sponsor representatives presented Recipients' school principals with a cash award for their school. The 3rd annual SMARTer Kids Innovation use of Technology Award was presented to three Recipients. Each Recipient or school benefited from equipment donations valued at $12,000 (Canadian funds).

In both 2003 and 2004, all eligible nominees received a Certificate of Nomination in recognition of their nomination.

"Throughout the semester he encouraged and inspired us to question and seek information from areas of the science field that went beyond the limits of our text book"

(quoted by a student)

Excellence in Teaching Awards continued

Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients excel in attending to individual student needs and involving parents in student learning.

Criteria for Selection

In 2002-2003 the Selection Committee named one hundred and twenty five nominees as Excellence in Teaching Award Finalists and three SMARTer Kids Foundation Innovative Use of Technology Award Finalists. Finalists' Certificates were provided to employing school boards for presentation at local award ceremonies. From among the Finalists, 20 teachers were named to receive a Provincial Excellence in Teaching Award and one was named as the provincial SMARTer Kids Foundation Award Recipient.

In 2003-2004, the Committee selected one hundred and thirty-one nominees as Excellence in Teaching Award Finalists and nine SMARTer Kids Foundation Innovative Use of Technology Award Finalists. Finalists' Certificates were provided to employing school boards for presentation at local award ceremonies. From among the Finalists, 20 teachers were named to receive a Provincial Excellence in Teaching Award and three were named as the provincial SMARTer Kids Foundation Award Recipients.

Excellence in Teaching Award

Recipients excel in motivating students

to exceed their own expectations.

Criteria for Selection

Recipients of the 2002-2003

Provincial Excellence in Teaching Awards

Back row left to right: Nicole Beaudoin, Fred Antoniw, Tammy Stafford, Joanne Aldridge, Dean McKinney, Daniel Maas, Norman Sieweke, Amy Swinkels, David Zayak, Jonathan Pencoff, Kelly Undershultz, Sandra Searle, John Anderson, Marlene Stevens

Front row left to right: Lisa McCluskey, Nicole Pearson (SPONSOR, EDMONTON JOURNAL), Archie Coderre, Sharon Goulet, Nancy Knowlton (SPONSOR, SMARTER KIDS FOUNDATION), Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg (MINISTER, ALBERTA LEARNING), Cheryle Kachman, Darrel Toma (SPONSOR, ALBERTA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE), MaryAnne McGill, Laurie Helland, Cheryl Wowk

Missing: Kelly Toporowski, (SPONSOR, THE DOCUMENT COMPANY XEROX), Michele Mulder (SPONSOR, ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION)

CALGARY
Jonathan James Pencoff
DR. E. P. SCARLETT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Sandra Lynn Searle
WESTERN CANADA HIGH SCHOOL
Marlene Marie Stevens
LORD BEAVERBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

DRAYTON VALLEY
Tammie Joyce Brockway Stafford
EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EDMONTON
Joanne Denise Aldridge
HIGHLANDS SCHOOL
John Anderson
WESTMOUNT JUNIOR HIGH
Fred Antoniw
WESTMOUNT JUNIOR HIGH
Nicole Jeannette M. Beaudoin
ÉCOLE ST. STANISLAUS
Sharon Goulet
SUZUKI CHARTER SCHOOL
Laurie Helland
LYMBURN
Cheryl M. Kachman
OLD SCONA ACADEMIC SCHOOL
Daniel Maas
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY
Lisa Marie McCluskey
ST. PAUL SCHOOL
MaryAnne McGill
OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIES
Norman John Sieweke
RIDEAU PARK SCHOOL
Amy Marie Swinkels
GOOD SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Kelly Lynn Undershultz
W. P. WAGNER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
David N. Zayac
ST. ROSE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

RED DEER
Cheryl M. Wowk
VENTURE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

WAINWRIGHT
Archie Coderre
WAINWRIGHT HIGH SCHOOL

SMARTER KIDS FOUNDATION INNOVATIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AWARD

ST. ALBERT
Dean Kevin McKinney
ST. ALBERT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Knowledge exists to be imparted.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients excel in demonstrating an in-depth knowledge of subject matter and curriculum.

Criteria for Selection

Recipients of the 2003-2004
Provincial Excellence in Teaching Awards

Top row left to right: Duane Shartau, Jonas Marchinko, Kelly Jacobson, Wanda Musclow, Diane Shaw, Alan Appleby, Randy Roth
Middle row left to right: Tim Oborn, Rebecca Talbot, Catherine Boychuk, Victoria Wynn, Laurel Usher, Audrey Ewanchuk, Marion Rex, Shannon Sookochoff, Joe Naccarato
Front row left to right: Gail Spivak, Glen Hornland, Amy Kinal-Franken, Deborah Meraw, Dr. Lyle Oberg, Loretta Van Brabant, John Warenycia, Phyllis Jensen

CALGARY
Tim Oborn
WILLIAM ABERHART HIGH SCHOOL
Duane Shartau
ERNEST MORROW JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Diane Shaw
ECOLE FATHER LEO GREEN SCHOOL

COCHRANE
Alan Appleby
COCHRANE HIGH SCHOOL

EDMONTON
Audrey Ewanchuk
FRESH START DOWNTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
Glen Carl Hornland
ROSS SHEPPARD HIGH SCHOOL
Phyllis Elaine Jensen
DALY GROVE SCHOOL
Amy Kinal-Franken
ST. BRENDAN SCHOOL
Deborah Meraw
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Wanda Grace Musclow
GLENROSE HOSPITAL SCHOOL
Giuseppe (Joe) Naccarato
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Shannon Sookochoff
JASPER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL
Gail Ann Chawrun-Spivak
AVONMORE SCHOOL
Laurel Usher
MCNALLY HIGH SCHOOL
Lorette Mary Van Brabant
ST. TERESA SCHOOL
Victoria Wynn
DUNLUCE SCHOOL

FORESTBURG
Randal Albert Roth
FORESTBURG SCHOOL

GRANDE CACHE
John Robert Warenycia
GRANDE CACHE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

RAINBOW LAKE
Rebecca Talbot
RAINBOW LAKE SCHOOL

SPRUCE GROVE
F. Marion Rex
ST. MARGUERITE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

VALLEYVIEW
Catherine Boychuk
VALLEYVIEW RANCHES COLONY SCHOOL

SMARTER KIDS FOUNDATION INNOVATIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

GRANDE CACHE
John Robert Warenycia
GRANDE CACHE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

RED DEER
Kelly Stephen Jacobson
ST. PATRICK'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Jonas James Marchinko
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Practice Review of Teachers Regulation

2002-2003

In the course of the 2002/2003 school year, the Registrar received 23 inquiries from individuals concerned about teachers' alleged unskilled or incompetent practices. Of the 23 calls, 21 were from parents and 2 were from individuals who wished not to identify themselves.

The majority of callers were counselled to use problem-solving strategies at the local level to address concerns. If callers provided their names and addresses, and requested information about making a complaint, the Registrar forwarded to each of them the *Information Guide About How To Make A Complaint*, as well as a copy of the *Practice Review of Teachers Regulation* (AR 4/99). Several callers also were referred to The Alberta Teachers' Association given that concerns appeared to be related to the conduct of teachers employed by Alberta school boards and to whom the *Teaching Profession Act's* provisions apply.

One complaint was investigated and on the basis of the investigator's report, the Registrar directed no further action be taken owing due to insufficient evidence. The complainant appealed this direction and the appeal was heard by a Complainant Review Committee which overturned the Registrar's decision and referred the matter to a Practice Review Panel. Three complaints were investigated and not referred by the Registrar to a Practice Review Panel owing to insufficient evidence. Two cases were investigated and referred to Practice Review Panels for hearing.

2003-2004

In the course of the 2003-2004 school year, the Registrar received 24 inquiries from individuals concerned about teachers' alleged unskilled or incompetent practices.

The majority of callers were counseled to use problem-solving strategies at the local level to resolve concerns. If callers provided their names and addresses, and requested information about making a complaint, the Registrar forwarded to each of them the *Information Guide About How To Make A Complaint*, as well as a copy of the *Practice Review of Teachers Regulation ("Regulation")* (AR 4/99).

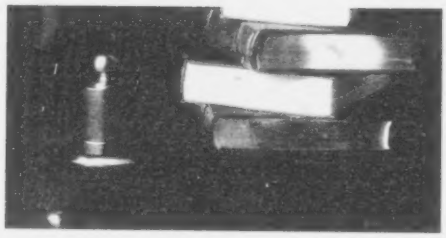
The best teacher is the one who suggests rather than dogmatizes, and inspires his listener with the wish to teach himself.

Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton

Practice Review of Teachers Regulation continued

The Registrar addressed nine (9) complaints. Six (6) Practice Review Panel hearings were held and in one case the Panel dismissed the complaint on the basis of insufficient evidence; in one case the Panel recommended to the Minister that the teacher's Alberta certificate be suspended after finding the actions of the teacher constituted unprofessional conduct under Section 19(1) of the *Regulation*, as, in the opinion of the Panel, that conduct was detrimental to the best interests of students, the public or teachers generally. The third hearing found the teacher guilty of unprofessional conduct under Section 19(1) of the *Regulation* on the basis that the conduct was detrimental to the best interest of students, public and teachers generally and subsequently recommended to the Minister the suspension of the teacher's teaching certificate for an indefinite term and imposed conditions prior to reinstatement. The fourth hearing found the teacher guilty of unprofessional conduct and recommended that the Minister of Learning suspend the teacher's interim Alberta teaching certificate for an indefinite period of time with no application to be considered for a minimum of five years and then only upon the teacher providing proof of full restitution of monies to his former employing school board. The fifth hearing resulted in a finding of unprofessional conduct under section 19(1) of the *Regulation*, specifically on the grounds that the teacher's conduct was detrimental to the best interests of students, the public, and teachers generally. On the basis of its finding, the Panel recommended that the Minister of Learning cancel the teacher's Alberta teaching certificate. In the case of a sixth teacher, a Practice Review Panel adjourned hearing the matter *sine die* upon submission of evidence that the teacher had voluntarily submitted to the Minister for cancellation of his Alberta teaching certificate.

Three (3) complaints await hearings by Practice Review Panels (one is the complaint referred by the Complainant Review Committee in 2003) and two complaints are awaiting the scheduling of hearings.



Certification Appeal Committee

A teacher member of the Council on Alberta Teaching Standards sits on the Certification Appeal Committee (CAC). The CAC hears appeals from individuals who have been denied interim or permanent certification by the Registrar for Alberta Learning.

2002-2003
In 2002/2003, nine (9) appeals were heard. Five (5) appeals concerned denial of teacher certification owing to criminal convictions. The Committee allowed the appeal of four individuals and the Registrar was directed to issue Alberta teacher certification. In one case, the Committee directed issuance of certification with specific conditions.

Four (4) appeals concerned the Registrar's decision to deny certification to applicants owing to their failure to present evidence of possessing an acceptable teacher preparation program. The Registrar's decisions were upheld in all four cases.

2003-2004
In 2003/2004, seven (7) appeals were scheduled. One (1) appeal concerned denial of teacher certification owing to criminal convictions. The Committee allowed the appeal of this individual and the Registrar was directed to issue Alberta teacher certification.

Six (6) appeals concerned the Registrar's decision to deny certification to applicants owing to their failure to present evidence of possessing an acceptable teacher preparation program. The Registrar's decisions were upheld in four (4) cases and in the other two (2) cases the Registrar was directed to issue Alberta teacher certification.

Teachers hold a special role in the life of young people. In our society the role of the teacher is second in importance only to the parent.

Canadian Supreme Court decision

COATS Accomplishments

The true aim of everyone who aspires to be a teacher should be, not to impart his own opinions, but to kindle minds.

Frederick W. Robertson

2002-2003

- Suggested amendments to the *Certification of Teachers Regulation* were provided to the Minister for his consideration.
- The findings of the provincial consultations on the role of distance learning in teacher education were carefully reviewed and Council forwarded recommendations about the appropriate role of distance delivery of some components of a basic professional teacher preparation program to the Minister for further consultation with education partners;
- The Operational Definitions for Credential Assessment were reviewed by Council and the need for potential revisions identified. For example, there is a need to update the definition of a basic professional teacher preparation program to more closely reflect current Alberta teacher preparation program requirements. As well, the Council noted operational policies that may need to be further revised should a decision be made in 2004 to accept some courses or course components within teacher preparation programs completed through distance learning;
- A draft Guide to assist principals in working effectively with school councils was developed for consideration by Alberta Learning in keeping with Recommendation 7.0 of the Minister's Forum on School Councils;
- A change in the assessment instrument used by Teacher Development and Certification Branch to assist in the determination of English language proficiency of applicants for certification whose first language is not English was approved. It is anticipated that the Canadian Language Benchmarks Assessment instrument will be piloted for purposes of assessing applicants' language proficiency;
- The COATS Annual Report for the period September 1, 2000 to August 31, 2001 and September 1, 2002 to August 31, 2002 was distributed to Alberta superintendents and partner organizations;
- Changes were made to the Selection Criteria for the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program to emphasize the concepts of innovation and creativity in supporting student learning within the context of a nominee's outstanding teaching or leadership.
- Guidelines were developed to assist the Registrar in determining the relevance of work or other experience related to teaching that the Registrar should consider when reviewing an Alberta graduate's application for certification if the dean's recommendation to issue a certificate is dated five or more years prior to the date of application for certification;

COATS Accomplishments continued

- The COATS web-site launched in October of 2001 (www.teachingquality.ab.ca) continues to provide information about teacher professionalism, teacher preparation and certification, teaching quality, standards for teaching practice, teacher professional knowledge, and competencies (knowledge, skills and attributes) for quality teaching. New monthly topics on the "What's New" page continue to address topics of relevance to teachers and parents;
- A major COATS activity during the 2002 - 2003 school year was the review of the findings of the *Efficacy of Teacher Preparation Programs and Beginning Teachers' Professional Development Opportunities (2002 Survey Report).* Council members heard a presentation about the *Report* from members of the Working Committee charged with gathering information about the efficacy of Alberta teacher preparation programs and beginning teachers' opportunities for professional growth. This committee includes representatives of the five Alberta teacher preparation institutions, the College of Alberta School Superintendents, the Alberta Teachers' Association and Alberta Learning. After considerable discussion, Council passed four recommendations arising from the *Report* for consideration by the Minister of Learning.
- Council met with David Lynn, Director of the CIDA funded, University of Calgary/ Kosovo Project along with Dr. Remzi Salihu of the Kosovo Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and other members of the Kosovo Teacher Training Review Board. Given COATS' role in developing the guiding principles for the Teaching Quality Standard, the Kosovars wished to meet with COATS to inquire into Alberta's development and implementation of competency, outcomes-based teacher preparation and certification;

2003-2004

- Revisions of the Excellence in Teaching Awards selection process to better identify creative and innovative teaching continued and a revised rating form was implemented for the 2004 Excellence Program;
- Further to a recommendation of the Minister's Forum on School Councils and in support of Alberta Learning's work, the Council completed revisions to the guide for principals aimed at assisting them to work more effectively with school councils;
- Council completed work on a brochure to better explain to teachers, parents and other members of the basic learning community Alberta's Teaching Quality Standard Ministerial Order;
- The COATS website continued to generate interest and received some 23,000 hits monthly from Albertans and others around the world.

Further information about any activities of the
Council on Alberta Teaching Standards
may be obtained by contacting:

Dr. Mark Swanson
Executive Secretary
Council on Alberta Teaching Standards
10044 - 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 5E6

Phone: (780) 427-2045

Fax: (780) 422-4199

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